

**Memo**

To: Human Services Committee  
From: Robert J. Brothers, Jr., Executive Director  
Date: March 15, 2010  
Re: **HB 5246, AN ACT CONCERNING DISTRIBUTION OF THE MARRIAGE  
LICENSE SURCHARGE AND CHANGES TO THE LANDLORD AND TENANT  
STATUTES TO BENEFIT VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

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The Commission **SUPPORTS** sections 2 through 8 of **HB 5246, AN ACT CONCERNING DISRTIBUTION OF THE MARRIAGE LICENSE SURCHARGE AND CHANGES TO THE LANDLORD AND TENANT STATUTES TO BENEFIT VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE** and has no position on section 1.

Like HB 5284, AN ACT CONCERNING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICES this bill recognizes and addresses part of the complex problem of domestic violence and its effects. CHRO agrees with Speaker of the House Chris Donovan's recent Task Force on Domestic Violence report that victims of domestic violence should be afforded extra protection from discrimination.

Victims of family violence would be protected from discrimination at their residence by allowing the early termination of a lease, by being allowed to defer a rental payment for one month and by prohibiting family violence as a justification for termination of a rental agreement.

The Commission recommends that in sections 2,3,4 and 5 " "family violence" means an incident resulting in physical harm, bodily injury or assault, or an act of threatened violence that constitutes fear of imminent physical harm, bodily injury or assault between family or household members. Verbal abuse or argument shall not constitute family violence unless there is present danger and the likelihood that physical violence will occur " be deleted and that "family violence" has the same meaning as in section 46b-38a(1) be substituted in lieu thereof.

We believe the title should reflect "family violence" instead of "domestic violence."

CHRO recommends that Sec. 46a-64c CGS be amended to add "victim of family violence" as a class basis to Connecticut's housing discrimination statutes.